

Frederick County Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Winchester Hall

Sustainability Commission Members Present: Tom Anderson, Robert Black, Lisa Gaver, Kate Heilman, Tim Jones, Mark Lancaster, Margie Lance, Chris May, Lonnie Ropp

Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) Staff: Sabrina Harder, Nicole Robinson

Other Attendees: Rich Marranto

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Margie Lance called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

2. Administrative Items

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Tom Anderson made a motion to approve February minutes. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All in favor; minutes approved.

There was a discussion of the open Commission seat and seats up for renewal. Applications for the open seats and renewal of current seats are due by 4:00 p.m. on March 22, 2013. Robert Black plans to resubmit application for reappointment. Mark Lancaster stated he would not seek reappointment.

3. Presentation: Shannon Moore and Kate Heilman

Update on Water Quality Policy and Regulations in Frederick and Carroll Counties

Shannon Moore summarized the Frederick County Stream Survey Report. She stated the report is done every 4 years and focuses on Watershed conditions relative to monitoring data collected. The Report is technical and the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) is looking to develop Fact Sheets for each Watershed that will be more easily understandable by the general public. Shannon provided a review of many of the figures and maps included in the report. The report is currently in draft form under review.

Kate Heilman summarized review practices in Carroll County. She stated there is a struggle for quality data and meeting regulatory requirements for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL's. Political factors may also limit a County's willingness to take on restorations projects, such as tree plantings. Kate's office is almost a counterpart to OSER, but operates under Carroll County's Development & Review Office. New development is reviewed for best practices for low impact development and protecting water quality.

Shannon also stated that she met with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) last week and discussed the prospective \$95M cost for the 20% retrofit requirement under the next version of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate

Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. There are process components for Frederick County to learn from Carroll County because they are getting involved in the process for new development early on.

Tom Anderson commented the Linganore Watershed tree planting is a good effort being made by both OSER and Carroll County.

Shannon stated that saplings for the tree plantings cost \$600-700/acre for conifers and more than \$5K/acre for deciduous. There was a discussion of incentives for private land owners to plant trees on their property. Kate also stated that Carroll County has an easement on private properties being developed to protect trees in buffer zones.

4. Legislative Update

Lonnie Ropp stated the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Bill (HB 226/SB 275) passed. Bills by Frederick County to repeal stormwater regulations for septic systems (SB236) have been withdrawn.

Shannon Moore added that SB 699 (Electricity- Community Energy-Generating Facilities- Pilot Program) is still in Committee.

Robert Black stated HB 775 (Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information) is being reviewed. There are potential problems for farmers losing the ability to protect proprietary information. Lisa Gaver expressed concerns about limiting viability for maintaining options for softer chemicals because of added expenses.

Mark Lancaster will be testifying on SB 935 (Housing-Energy-Efficient and Green Homes- Construction Financing). The bill is sponsored by Senator Ronald Young.

Margie Lance stated May will be dedicated to a legislative wrap-up. Lonnie Ropp will look into inviting legislators. June may be an alternative meeting date. The June meeting will be at the Catoctin Creek Nature Center.

5. Sustainability Indicators

Working on review done for data compiled by Commission members. Corrections and updates have been made, but additional data is still needed.

6. Updates and Comments

Commissioner Comments

Tom Anderson: There will be a presentation on Efficiency, Alternative Energy & Recycling on April 17, 2013 at Walkersville High School. This is an evening event and is open to the public.

Lisa Gaver: She attended an Agricultural Policy Conference on March 8, 2013 and stated a lot of information was presented.

Tim Jones: Frederick County Home Show was held the third weekend in March. There was lots of interest in home energy efficiency. He suggested presenting OSER/Green Homes Challenge information or Sustainability Commission issues there next year.

Mark Lancaster: There was lots of interest in new homes at the Home Show. Not a huge number in attendance but serious interest from attendees. He commented on his interview with the Frederick News Post for the next Green section's feature on Construction Waste Management.

There was discussion among the Commission regarding approaching the Frederick News Post about a Sustainability Commission Column as a feature of the monthly Green section.

Margie Lance: There is a new law on fertilizer, banning phosphorous unless establishing a new lawn or reseeded. This law will apply to landscapers and homeowners.

Chris May: Suntech Power in China, the largest solar panel manufacturing company, is declaring bankruptcy.

Lonnie Ropp: The Solarize Frederick event was mentioned. Lonnie also suggested distributing Green Homes Challenge/Solarize Frederick County information to Frederick County Public Schools in Thursday envelopes. She will provide OSER with contact information for appropriate person at FCPS.

OSER Updates

Sabrina Harder: The second annual Green Homes Challenge Recognition Event will be held on March 27, 2013. Solarize 101 workshops are currently being held to promote Solarize Frederick County, which is preparing to launch.

Nicole Robinson: The Interactive Green Homes Challenge website is under construction and will go live in May. Power Saver Retrofits is underway.

Municipal Updates: None

7. Public Comment

Rich Maranto: There will be a representative from the Green Building Council to speak about Green Building in Maryland, following the current Sustainability Commission Meeting. The American Solar Energy Society Convention is scheduled for April 20, 2013 at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD. Saturday is free to the public.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sabrina Harder